

County Snapshot

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Fresno County is located in the fertile, well-populated Central Valley. It is bordered on the west by the Diablo Mountain Range, on the north by the San Joaquin River, and on the east by the Sierra Nevada mountains. Based on production, it is the number one farm county in the nation.

A projected population of 1,114,400 by the year 2020 will amount to an impressive increase of 65.4 percent over the 1990 population. Fresno is a thriving, growing county.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for Fresno County to be 379,600 with an unemployment rate of 13.5 percent. Agriculturally oriented counties tend to have higher unemployment rates and greater seasonal variations in employment and unemployment. The state's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent for the same year.

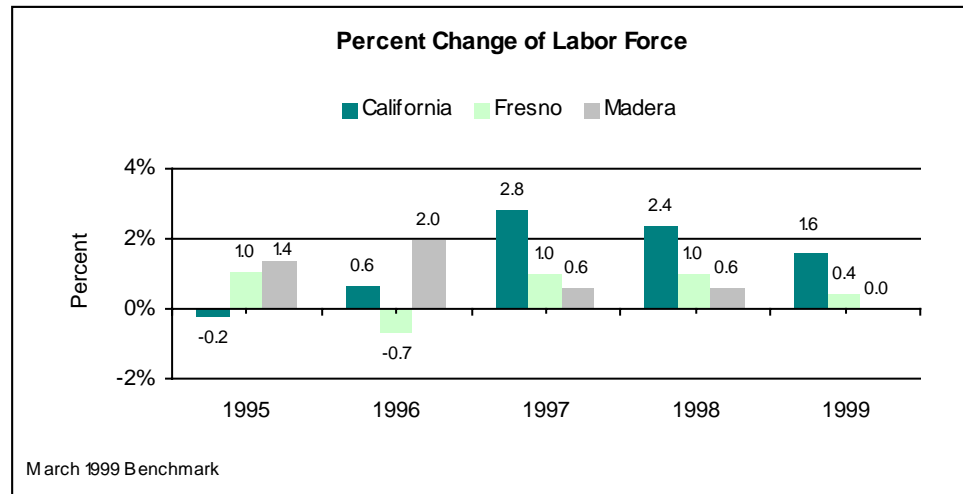
Services is the largest industry in the county, accounting for 21.2 percent of total employment. Government accounts for 19.1 percent, and agriculture, another significant industry, accounts for 18.3 percent.

Most of the jobs in Fresno's future nonfarm wage and salary employment will be in the services, retail trade, and government sectors. Services, the fastest growing industry, is projected to add 11,900 jobs by 2002. Retail trade is projected to grow by 11.7 percent, followed closely by government with 11 percent growth. Most of the new jobs in government will be in the local public education sector.

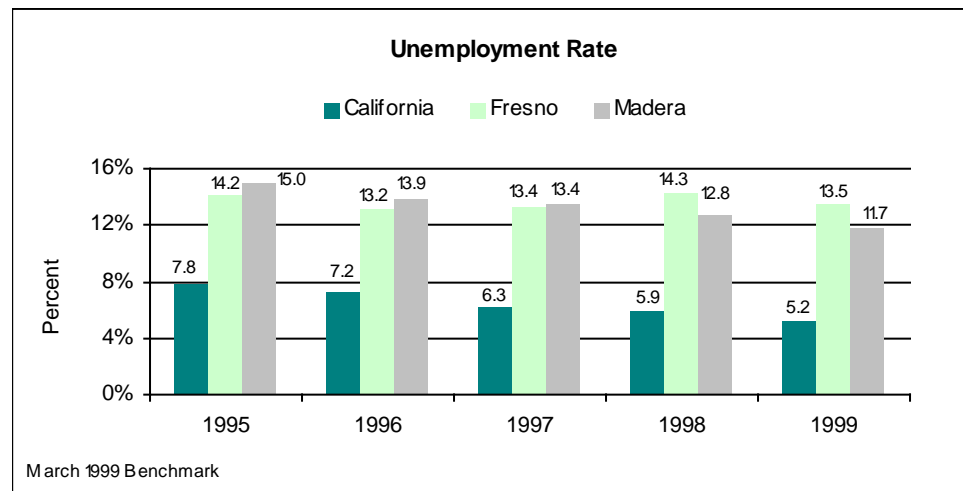
Agriculture laid the groundwork for success in Fresno County but, today, the labor force reaches far beyond the fields. The local labor market conditions have been improving steadily over the last five years and the county should continue to prosper and grow.

LABOR FORCE

Fresno County's civilian labor force rebounded in 1997 with 1.0 percent growth and the growth rate continues to be stable. From 1995 to 1999, Fresno's labor force increased by 1.7 percent. Neighboring Madera County recorded 3.1 percent growth during the same period.

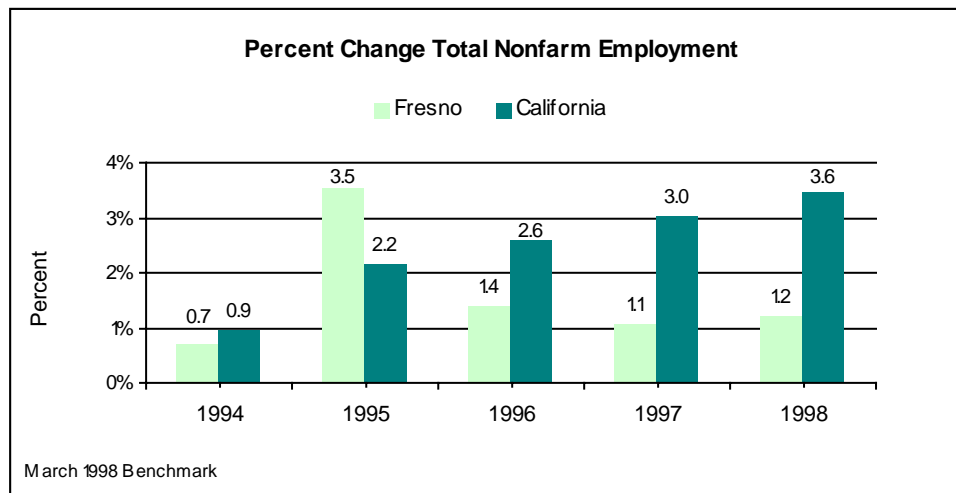


Since 1995, the unemployment rate for both Fresno and Madera counties has been higher than the rate for the state. This is due in part to the fact that agriculturally based counties tend to have higher unemployment rates. However, in 1999, Fresno's unemployment rate dropped to 13.5 percent, down from 14.3 percent posted the previous year.

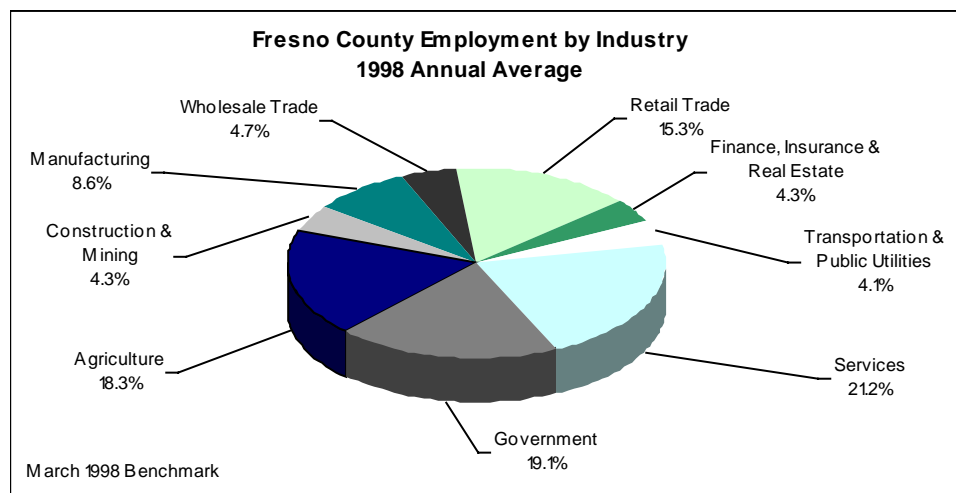


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Fresno County's nonfarm wage and salary employment prospered with a significant 3.5 percent growth rate in 1995 due, in part, to gains in the services and government sectors. From 1994 to 1998, payroll employment grew by 17,300 or 7.4 percent.



In 1998, the services, government, and agricultural sectors dominated Fresno County employment. Projections in nonfarm employment for this area indicate that services, government, and retail trade are expected to account for about 80 percent of the 29,650 job growth forecast from 1995 to 2002.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Fresno County is projected to have many employment opportunities in the high turnover occupations.

Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1995-2002 Projected Growth 19.4%
	Registered Nurses – 500 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$22.55
	Nurse Aides, Orderlies, Attendants – 480 job openings. Help care for physically or mentally ill, injured, disabled, or infirm individuals confined to hospitals and residential care facilities. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.37
	Janitors, Cleaners, Except Maids – 430 job openings. Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition; perform heavy cleaning duties such as operating motor driven cleaning equipment, mopping floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.46
	Guards and Watch Guards – 420 job openings. Stand guard at entrance gates or walk about premises of businesses, industrial establishments, or private residences to prevent theft, violence or infractions of rules. Direct patrons or employees, control traffic. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.69
	Home Health Care Workers - 410 job openings. Care for elderly, convalescent, or handicapped persons in the homes of their patients. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.42
Associated Occupations	RETAIL TRADE 1995-2002 Projected Growth 11.7%
	Waiter and Waitresses – 850 job openings. Serve food and drink to customers. Duties may include explanation about how the meal is prepared, wine recommendations or simple food preparation at the table. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.92
	Cashiers – 810 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.70
	Salespersons, Retail – 680 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.36
	Food Preparation Workers - 340 job openings. Keep kitchen work areas clean and orderly, keep restaurant equipment and utensils clean, move supplies and wash dishes, trays, pots and pans used in cooking and serving. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.47
	Cook Specialty Fast Food – 280 job openings. Make simple, fast-cooking meals and snacks. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.89
Associated Occupations	GOVERNMENT 1995-2002 Projected Growth 11 %
	Accountants and Auditors – 210 job openings. Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records for the purpose of giving advice or preparing statements and installing or advising on systems of recording costs or other financial and budgetary data. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.72
	Compliance Officers and Enforcement Inspectors – Except Construction – 110 job openings. Enforce adherence to policies, procedures, or regulations and advise on standards. May be employed in the public or private sector and inspect and enforce regulations on such matters as health, safety, food, immigration, licensing, or interstate commerce. Work experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.12
	Police Patrol Officers –110 job openings. Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, protect life and property in an assigned patrol district or beat. Patrol on foot or in a vehicle; investigate accidents; apprehend, arrest and process prisoners; and give evidence in court. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.15
	Human Services Workers – 90 job openings. Assist Social Group Workers and Caseworkers with developing, organizing and conducting programs to prevent and resolve problems relevant to substance abuse and human relationships. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.01
	Corrections Officers and Jailers – 90 job openings. Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.01

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
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Labor Market Information Division
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